

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Professor Y.P.S. Pangtey and Dr. B.S. Kalakoti, Department of Botany, Th. D.S.B. College, Nainital, who kindly identified some of the plants, and Dr. Poonam Melrotra of the Department of Ecology of the same institution for her kind help with the bibliography.

October 27, 1999

PETER SMETACEK
RAJANI SMETACEK
*Jones Estate,
Bhintal,
Nainital, Pin 263 136,
Uttar Pradesh,
India.*

REFERENCES

- BARLOW, H.S. (1982): An Introduction to the Moths of South East Asia. Malayan Nature Soc., Kuala Lumpur.
BELL, T.R.D. & F.B. SCOTT (1937): The Fauna of British India including Ceylon and Burma, Moths, Vol. V, Spingidae, Taylor & Francis, London.
SEVASTOPULO, D.G. (1949): A supplementary list of the foodplants of the Indian Bombycidae. Agaristidae and Noctuidae. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 48: 265-276.

23. ON THE PREDATION OF THE GIANT REDEYE *GANGARA THYRSIS*
(FABRICIUS) (FAMILY : HESPERIIDAE; ORDER : LEPIDOPTERA)

The Giant Redeye *Gangara thyrsis* Family HesperIIDae is not an uncommon butterfly in Bangalore. It is often seen in gardens around its food plants — *Areca lutens*, *Cocos nucifera* and other palms.

Observations on the predators of the Giant Redeye were made on nine *Areca lutens* plants ranging in height from 1-4 m, and frequented by these insects. It was observed that the bonnet macaque (*Macaca radiata*) and the house crow (*Corvus splendens*) fed on the larvae and pupae of the Giant Redeye.

One individual of a troop of bonnet macaques which visited the premises where observations were made, systematically searched all the palms for larvae and pupae. The macaque searched the leaves rolled up by the larvae, opened them, and ate the larvae (which have long, loosely attached, white thread-like outgrowths amidst which are red spots).

Similarly, the macaque opened the tubes made of palm fronds which conceal the pupae and ate the pupae.

A house crow which visited the premises seemed to have noticed a pupa of the Giant Redeye. It gave up its efforts to procure the pupa as it was unable to balance itself on the slender palm fronds. A good half hour had elapsed before the bird returned and perched on the neighbouring *Colocasia* sp.(?) growing amidst the palms. From the new perch, it successfully ripped open the tube and swallowed the pupa whole.

These are probably new records of predators of the Giant Redeye.

May 25, 1999

S. KARTHIKEYAN
24, Opp. Banashankari Temple,
Shakambarinagar,
8th Block Jayanagar P.O.,
Bangalore 560 082, Karnataka, India.

24. MATING BEHAVIOUR OF THE COMMON MORMON *PAPILIO POLYTES*
(FAMILY: PAPILIONIDAE)

During February 1998, I was studying the metamorphosis of different species of Papilionidae and Nymphalidae in my home laboratory. The Common Mormon (*Papilio*

polytes) was one of the species reared successfully. After a pupal period of ten days, a female Common Mormon emerged from its chrysalis at about 0900 hrs. The Common

Mormon is known to exhibit polymorphism, having three female forms. So I observed it carefully and found that it belonged to the *stichius* form which resembles the Common Rose (*Pachliopta aristolochiae*). After spreading its shrunken and wet wings, I shifted the butterfly to dry its wings on to a lemon tree from which the caterpillar was collected. I kept watching continuously for about 30 minutes and took some photographs. During this time I noticed a male Common Mormon flying around the lemon tree. I took detailed notes and left the site.

I visited the site again after 20 minutes and was astonished to find the newly emerged butterfly mating with the mature male Mormon. It was very interesting that the female Mormon had not even changed its position from where I had placed it initially. The marginal wing scales of the male Mormon were somewhat damaged and wing edges ruptured, indicating the extremity of its lifespan.

The male and female were in the clasped posture for another 90 minutes, with both their wings spread. The male was inverted, suspended

from the copulatory organ of the female. The hind wing of the female remained on the upper side, overlapping the male's wing. A white droplet of spermatozoa was observed on the wingbase of the male Mormon, perhaps splashed during the ejaculation. It was most surprising that the female became involved in mating immediately upon emergence, even prior to its first flight.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank my family for support and help in the rearing of butterflies. I especially thank Mr. Samarjit Paul for valuable information and help in specimen collection, and Md. Latif Hussain, for use of his computer.

May 20, 1999

ARNAB BOSE
c/o Assam Wood Industries
North Bongaigaon,
P.O. & Dist.-Bongaigaon,
Pin 783 380,
Assam,
India.

25. MYCOPHAGOUS ARTHROPODS FROM THE ANDAMAN ISLANDS

The native fungi and their associated arthropods are both very poorly known from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. To study the nature of fungal-arthropod interactions we have been documenting the arthropod fauna of the fungi of these islands.

The arthropods so far collected on fungi from the Islands are represented by Coleoptera (including mycophagous staphylinids and tenebrionids) and a couple of Acarina. The oyster mushroom *Pleurotus sajor-caju* is attacked by *Scaphisoma* sp. (Coleoptera) in the cropping chamber, when this mushroom is cultured indoors.

List of Mycophagous arthropods from the Andaman Islands are as follows:

Insecta

Coleoptera

- Ciidae *Cis* spp.*
- Erotylidae *Spondotriplax andamana*
Arrow
- Scaphidiidae *Scaphisoma* sp.
- Staphylinidae *Gyrophaena* sp.
- Tenebrionidae *Cryphaeus* sp.
(Toxicinae)

Acarina

Mesostigmata

- Uropodidae *Cyllibula?bordagei*
(Oudemans)

Oribatada

(=Cryptostigmata)

- Parakalummidae Genus et sp. indet.

*Four species, presently not identified, were recorded.